



the **TORCH**

September 2016 Vol. 54, No.9 September Meeting

Date: Saturday Sept. 17, 2016
Gathering: 11:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM
Place: The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

Luncheon Menu:

Choice 1:

Strawberry Spinach Salad with grilled Chicken, Fresh Strawberries, Mandarin Oranges, Gorgonzola Cheese and Candied Pecans. Topped with Grilled Chicken, Drizzled with Zinfandel Vinaigrette.

Choice 2:

Turkey Club Wrap: Sliced Smoke Turkey, Spinach, Vine Ripe Tomatoes, Apple Wood Bacon and Mayonnaise. Wrapped in a Flour Tortilla, served with Fresh Fruit.

With: Warm Rolls & Butter

Dessert: Chef's Choice

Beverages from the bar are available.
Wait staff will accept charge cards.

Reservations:

**Tina Hoegler will be taking reservations.
Please contact her at 941-505-8483 or
c_hoegler@msn.com no later than Mon., Sept.
12, Cancellations must be made no later than
Tues., Sept.13. Otherwise payment is expected.
Price of the luncheon is \$20.**

Our Speaker:

AH Muhammed



Abdul'haq Muhammed is the founder and Executive Director of Quality Life Center. He is a community leader and a motivational speaker with a vision for uplifting children and adults through confidence-building programs based on core values that will teach the tools of a rewarding life.

He is a native of Harlem, New York City. Muhammed served in the army and attended City College of New York and Fordham University. He co-founded the Woodcrest Center for Human Development in the Bronx and developed programs for youth and adults. Muhammed served as Director of Youth Programs and Board Chairman.

Muhammed has conducted sensitivity training for officers with the New York Police Department. He has spoken at many universities including Brown, Rutgers, Vassar, NYU, Columbia, City College and Hunter College, and was a frequent guest at the United Nations, meeting with ambassadors and heads of state. He became a Muslim and led a ministry. He trained chaplains to counsel inmates in penal institutions, including Riker's Island and Sing Sing.

With other concerned citizens, Muhammed founded Quality Life Center more than 25 years ago in order to meet the needs of underserved areas in southwest Florida in a way that is respectful and empowering. He developed programs to enhance character development, combat violence and drug abuse, reverse the "victim" mentality and tackle the negative self-image often found amongst the residents. Children in the program learn manners and self-respect.

Muhammed is also a motivational speaker and a lecturer on Islam in America and the unity of faith. He has been involved with community organizations such as Lee County Alliance for the Arts, Lee County NAACP, The News-Press Editorial Board and

Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board. He is a co-founder and former Chairman of the 21st Century Collaboration, a collection of community trustees, including faith-based leaders, who are united by the common purpose of developing solutions to community problems.

Muhammed has received many awards, including:

- 1998 "Florida's Finest" Award from Florida Governor Lawton Chiles
- 1999 Person of the Year from the News-Press
- 2013 Named "Influential Person Who Makes Things Happen" by Gulfshore Business
- 2009 Man in the Mirror Award from the Dunbar Community
- 1998 Preventing Crime in the Black Community Award from Florida's Attorney General
- 1999 Liberty Bell Award from Lee County Bar Association
- 2010 Trailblazer Award from the News-Press
- 2012 Community Leader Award from the James Brunson Youth Development Foundation
- 2013 Face Award from Gulfshore Business Magazine
- 2014 "Image Award" from the Lee County NAACP
- 2014 "Muslim of the Year" from the Council on American-Islamic Award

He gathered community leaders and people of influence to lead the movement to create a funding source for positive, proven youth programs. Gathering significant traction, Pennies for Community Progress - and Muhammed for spearheading the movement - was named a finalist of the "People to Watch" for 2016 by the News-Press.

Muhammed has a vision of equality, dignity and opportunity for all. Through his leadership and example, he has generated a sense of community and hope.

Public Policy ... Marilynn Edwards

Be aware that Congress has recessed until after Labor Day, with no funding for Zika or gun control.

Indianapolis – Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky (PPINK) is consolidating four health centers and closing two health centers in Indiana over the next five months. These moves are part of a process to better serve the women and men of Indiana. Will this happen in Florida? Pay attention to the platforms of the RNC and DNC so we can hold their feet to the fire coming

this fall. Sharing news from National AAUW to keep you up to date with this information. On May 16, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court opted not to answer important legal questions in *Zubik v. Burwell*, a critical case dealing with women's access to birth control. AAUW is disappointed that women who work for religious nonprofits will continue to lack clarity on their access to contraception. No matter where women work or go to school, they deserve access to health care regardless of their employer's beliefs. The court opted to send this case and several related ones back to the lower courts. AAUW hopes that the lower courts will rule, as many already have, in favor of access to contraception as guaranteed by law.

AAUW joined coalition partners in a brief supporting contraceptive.

President's Message...

Welcome Back



As we begin the next year of gatherings and activities, it is, indeed, a pleasure and honor to serve as the President of AAUW for the 2016-2017 year.

Your leadership team has been very busy planning, delegating and participating in meetings and sharing in anticipation of a productive and exciting season.

The fashion show organization is well underway thanks to the direction of the co-chairpersons, Peggy Drennan-Cihi and Kathy Jones. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and diligence in this annual event.

The Torch is now being created by the most capable skills of Nancy Kuyoth and we are all truly grateful for her time and effort in producing the monthly newsletter. Our first Torch has a wealth of information so keep it close by for future reference.

Big shout-out to Phyllis Waco who has put together a diverse and highly interesting program this year that I am sure you will all find stimulating and enjoyable.

Pertinent facts, convention information and other notes will be published from both the national and state organizations as they become available.

I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you in September or whenever you arrive back in Southwest Florida. Please feel free to contact me or any board member with concerns and/or suggestions. Remember, our first meeting is September 17, 2016 at The Landings

...President Shelley Siriano

*Growing in Style
Scholarship
Tech Trek
Youth
Leadership
Education*

AAUW: Supporting the Advancement of Women



Growing in Style... is the theme for our 23rd Fashion Show on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Make a note of this important date. We will be returning to the Grandezza Country Club in Estero, FL for the occasion.

This is our major fundraiser for the year, and it depends on your help and all of us making contributions of our time and talents.

There are committees for everyone, so please add your name to the committee of your choice, or e-mail to kathyj1972@hotmail.com what help you can provide Kathy Jones.

Our models will be some of our new members, to be decided at the first meeting in the fall. Peggy Thomas, a Mary Kay specialist, and Ursula Sahakian, a hair design specialist, will be available in the dressing room to add glamor to the models to suit their designer styles.

Our tickets are being designed to represent our theme. Our goal is to raise funds for awards and scholarships. We hope to raise as much or more than last year.

We can all help to reach this goal...

...by purchasing and/or selling the 180 tickets available from Peggy Drennan-Cihi

...by sponsoring a table for 6, 8 or 10 friends and family from Peggy Drennan-Cihi

...by purchasing a raffle ticket from the Money Hat at the event

...by writing a check to AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County

...by donating items such as *gift certificates to restaurants, area merchants, golf courses, movies, theaters, hand-crafted items, gift baskets and so on.*

Please send these to Kathy Jones



We appreciate all those who provide items for our raffles and auctions. Please make sure the donors receive a copy of our official solicitation letter. To obtain copies of these letters, contact Peggy Drennan-Cihi or Kathy Jones. We will also have copies available at the meetings. Kathy will be collecting all donations.

Elected Officers

President: Shelley Siriano

Vice President Elect: Marilyn Myli

VP Programs: Phyllis Wayco

VP Membership: Peggy Drennan Cihi and Kathy Jones

Co Secretary: Bonnie Ryan and Cathy Chapman

Treasurer: Mary Kellner

Appointed Officers-Board Members

Public Policy: Marilynn Edwards

Co Scholarship: Janet George and Judith Sims

Communications: Carol Edmier

Ways and Means: Carolyn Nance

Communication Committee

Website: Marie Glasgow

Torch Editor: Nancy Kuyoth

Historian: Judith Sims

Records Retention: Executive Board

Special Committees

Ways and Means Committee

Fashion Show: Peggy Drennan Cihi and Kathy Jones

Adopt a Precinct: Carolyn Nance

Interest Groups

Book Clubs: contact Liz Foster at 239- 415-2997

or her e-mail lizfteach@aol.com

Group 1 meets the second Tuesday at 1:00

Group 2 meets the second Wednesday at 1:00

Group 3 meets the Third Wednesday at 2:00

Bridge: contact Donna Randolph at 239- 693-2556 or

her e-mail bobdon@earthlink.com

Play the second and third Monday of each month.

Mah Jongg: contact Jean Schoenthaler at 239- 277-

5174 or her e-mail jeanschoenthaler8102@cpmcast.net

Play the first and third Thursday of each month.

Hand-Foot & Elbow: contact Nancy Kuyoth at 239- 471-7806 or her email nkuyoth@aol.com. Play the first and fourth Mondays of each month.

Name Tags

Are you interested in a name tag?

Please contact Marlene Palmer. Cost: \$8.75

Make check payable to Marlene Palmer, 9149 Shadow Glen Way, Fort Myers, FL 33913 239-768-9824

Be sure to include your complete name.

AAUW

*Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy, and research*

Tech Trek

DID YOU KNOW? AAUW National has done research which determined that encouraging girls at the rising eighth grade level to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, (STEM) leads them to careers in these fields? This led AAUW CA to develop one week Science and Math camps for these age girls, and this year twenty-one such camps were conducted in ten states including Florida.

Tech Trek became a reality for our Branch this year. It all started last Fall when AAUW FL sent out Tech Trek information encouraging us to get involved. The process began with sending camp and scholarship information to middle school Science and Math teachers encouraging them to nominate the sharpest rising eighth grade girls in their classes. Thirteen girls were nominated. Eight completed applications and essays. A small group of our members reviewed each girl's submissions, interviewed the girl and a parent and ranked them using given criteria. Four of the eight were selected by Tech Trek FL and went off to the camp at Palm Beach State College in Boca Raton June 12-18. You will meet these four bright, talented and enthusiastic girls at the October luncheon. In the meantime check out Tech Trek facts and results at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/> , and then come celebrate these girls and AAUW's empowering of young women.

AAUW

Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch

PO Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

